



BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE

METHODIST CIRCUIT

SEPTEMBER 2020

WHAT'S ON and NEWS ITEMS

A MESSAGE FROM REV JOHN HOWARD:

Dear Friends,

I recently called in at the new manse, and met with our new Minister in the circuit Rev Graham Cutler. On a different day I met with Rev Tim Boocock our new Superintendent. Both meetings were positive signs that my time as acting superintendent is drawing to a close!

Over the last few weeks we have seen the gradual opening up of our buildings and our communal life. Staindrop have been continuing their popular weekly phone-in service, Barnard Castle have now been holding Sunday Services (albeit in a form different to the past) for some weeks, the Pathway has been hosting morning prayers led by the Anglican Church. As September approaches we are looking forward to further developments with more worship services and user groups returning to the premises. At the same time the Circuit Media Service (jointly run with the Darlington Circuit) continues to attract a large number of viewers who worship together. The service will continue to be offered through the next quarter.

Of course we are far from over the crisis. Until a vaccine is widely available it is very unlikely that church life can return to any semblance of normality - all the signs are that we will be celebrating Christmas and Easter with many of the restrictions we now know, still in place. The cost to the church has been high, not only in financial terms (though that has been high) but in the impact upon our life together. Attracting new members has been almost impossible, local church fellowship has been put on hold. At the same time there have been real positives. Many members have reported that their sense of pastoral support by other members has been much heightened. The media services have attracted people who don't normally worship with us. We have been reminded that church is more about the people than the buildings.

As I pass the responsibility for the life and work of the circuit to a new superintendent, I would like to thank the circuit stewards, Edwin our administrator and the leaders of the individual churches, for their support and for their efforts during a very difficult period in the circuit's life. I look forward to returning to the role of a supernumerary minister in the circuit and catching up on the work in my garden which has been neglected over the last few months!

May God bless you all

John Howard
Acting Superintendent.

Lectionary Readings for September 2020

| Date | Sunday | Old Testament | Psalm | New Testament | Gospel |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 6th September | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Exodus 12:1-14 | 149 | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20 |
| 13th September | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Exodus 14:19-31 | 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 | Romans 14:1-12 | Matthew 18:21-35 |
| 20th September | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Exodus 16:2-15 | 105:1-6, 37-45 | Philippians 1:21-30 | Matthew 20:1-16 |
| 27th September | 26th Sunday in | Exodus 17:1-7 | 78:1-4, 12-16 | Philippians 2:1-13 | Matthew 21:23-32 |

OUR CALLING

Worship

Learning and Caring

Service

Evangelism

Starting to get back to normal (whatever 'normal' is these days)

Barnard Castle and *The Pathway* are having physical meetings on Sunday mornings for worship, but with social distancing and sanitisation precautions. *Staindrop* are meeting by telephone.

Contact the stewards for details.

CIRCUIT EVENTS

Tuesday 8th September 7 for 7:30 at Barnard Castle *Local Preachers' Meeting*

Monday 28th September 7:30 preceded by prayer at 7 at The Pathway *Circuit Meeting*

The Circuit Meetings have decided by ballot that the name of the new circuit will be

Darlington and Teesdale Circuit

(subject to approval by Conference)

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

Study Groups led by Alan and John are postponed. New dates will be published when they are agreed.

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The 2020 EASTER OFFERING service has been postponed until **2021**. We are working on holding an on-line service in the autumn.

Do not dispose of envelopes and other materials already distributed; these will be used in 2021.

CIRCUIT OFFICE

The Circuit Office will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 2:30.

Edwin can be contacted by telephone on 01833 650045 or 07484 398958 or by email at bctmc1317@gmail.com

Praise and Prayer Points

Welcome to Graham and Tim as they begin their new ministries among us.

Give thanks for John for looking after us over the last few months

Welcome to Rev Brian Hutton, joining the ministry team in the Darlington Circuit

Pray for all those recently bereaved and those who are unwell .

Give thanks for all those who work hard to maintain our buildings, and pray for them.

Pray for the Barnard Castle & Teesdale and Darlington circuit leadership teams as they continue to progress the work of forming the new circuit.

Pray for all those suffering from the effects of the many recent wars, conflicts and man-made and natural disasters around the world and other acts of violence.

Pray for Richard Andrew foregoing his Sabbatical in these unprecedented circumstances.

Pray for the work of the Food Banks and for those who need them.

Pray for all those involved in the Coronavirus pandemic - those suffering, those working to relieve suffering and to help in other ways, and those whose lives are disrupted by it.

Pray for all those working to reopen our places of worship safely.

Pray for our Mission Partners from the UK in various parts of the world during the current crisis, feeling very isolated, but committed to their presence with the people they serve.



CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.teesdalemethodists.co.uk

The next issue of What's On/Praise Points will be for October. Please email items to bctmc1317@gmail.com or send to your contact person by 14th September.